REGINA metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

#stopbullying #drivingchange

Socially conscious social media use could stop cyberbullying, high school students at an anti-bullying forum are told PAGE 2

Rogers wins big in 'game of high stakes'

The media conglomerate inks a blockbuster 12-year, $5.2-billion deal with the NHL PAGE 4

A Fistful of Yen, I mean, Dollars

Oldboy is just the latest movie with origins in the East that Hollywood is reimagining for North American audiences PAGE 7

'I'VE GOT A REAL GROWN-UP-JOB JOB'

SHANNON VISITS HER OLD OFFICE FLIRT KYLE — WHO APPARENTLY DRANK THE 'NEW KYLE' KOOL-AID — DURING A BREAK FROM HIS NEW JOB AT THE OIL REFINERY PAGE 5

Party down on the Green Mile

Roughriders mascot Gainer the Gopher gets cheers from fans outside the Saskatchewan legislative building after the Grey Cup parade in Regina on Tuesday. Go to metronews.ca for a photo gallery from the day and see page 11 for more Roughriders coverage. LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heroes' reception.

Crowd chants 'Let's go Riders,' goes wild for Durant at Grey Cup victory parade

Some children skipped school and adults did the same with work to join the crowd at a Grey Cup parade in Regina on Tuesday.

The parade and rally were held to celebrate the Saskatchewan Roughriders' 45-23 win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Sunday in the CFL's championship game.

Flatbed trucks carried players from Mosaic Stadium through part of downtown Regina that has been dubbed the "Green Mile" to the Saskatchewan legislature. Fans dressed in green and white cheered along the route, then followed the players to the rally at the provincial legislature.

The biggest cheers were for Riders head coach Corey Chamblin, quarterback Darian Durant and running back Kory Sheets.

"Let's go Riders," Chamblin shouted when he stepped up to the microphone at the rally, and the crowd echoed back.

"I love it," said Chamblin. "This is a special place, with special people, with a special team and we deserve the cup. On behalf of the premier and the mayor, we all have the month of December off."

Then came the chants of "Darian, Darian, Darian" and the Riders quarterback was greeted with wild enthusiasm.

"I remember when we came back from Calgary in 2009 and I told you guys that we'd be playing for plenty of Grey Cups ahead and I made that promise to you. And now I'm so glad, with the help of my guys, to finally bring that Grey Cup right back here to Saskatchewan where it belongs," Durant said to the crowd.

The crowd screamed when Durant went inside the legislature and raised the cup on a balcony over their heads.

The path to winning the CFL championship was years in the making for the Roughriders. The organization, including general manager Brendan Taman, had been working to put together a championship winning team since 2011, when it was announced that Saskatchewan would host the 101st Grey Cup.

The players were high-fiving and hugging fans, who stood shoulder to shoulder at the rally in temperatures that dipped into the minus-teens.

But Regina resident Dean Dohms said he wouldn't miss it. Dohms brought his two children to the parade and rally, saying he has "authorized the hooky (from school) today."

"It's just such an amazing thing that we feel they need to take part in the whole thing," said Dohms. THE CANADIAN PRESS

How sweet it is

"We had a lot of ups and downs this season, but we stuck together, you guys stuck with us, and now this is the ultimate reward at the end of the day."

Riders quarterback Darian Durant

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NEWS 1

First anti-bullying forum looking to make its mark

Action plan.
High schoolers gather to learn and share their experiences

Stopping social-media usage is not the answer to eliminating cyberbullying, University of Regina Prof. Alec Couros told hundreds of high school students on Tuesday.

Instead, he said, it's developing a better digital identity and responsibly using online tools.

"We have to teach kids to develop positive activities and behaviours on the Internet, so that they know cyberbullying is morally wrong and not even an option," Couros, a professor of information and communication technologies, told the teens at a forum at a Regina hotel.

Couros was the keynote speaker in the first of three annual anti-bullying forums that the provincial government has proposed with its action plan on the issue. The plan follows federal Bill C-13, or the Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act, which introduces tougher penalties for crimes such as transmitting an "intimate image" of another person without their consent.

Winston Knoll Collegiate students Kevina, left, and Kenda Mullock say the best way to stop cyberbullying is by being role models and using social media responsibly. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

"We indicated that we're doing a formal response to bullying and we figured we're just going to go ahead and do things, and this is a start," said Education Minister Don Morgan.

More than 120 students from high schools across Saskatchewan attended the event. They joined online polls and logged into their social-media accounts during the forum to share their experiences and opinions about bullying.

At one point, almost all the students admitted to having been bullied and being bullies themselves in the past.

Sixteen-year-old twins Kenda and Kevina Mullock even mentioned seeing someone secretly post a classmate's photograph with a rude comment on Instagram.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing and I immediately commented back and told him it wasn't very funny," Kevina said.

The classmate apologized the next day but didn't take the photo down.

However, the twins said it was a start.

"I think the best way we can stop cyberbullying is by being better role models online, like saying something nice to someone who's having a bad day," Kenda said.

"It's cheesy, but it works."

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Winter of extremes predicted

Two Regina residents brave a bitterly cold wind on the shore of Wascana Lake last spring, when winter didn't want to end. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO FILE

Saskatchewan residents should gear up for the usual winter wallop.

The Weather Network released its winter outlook on Tuesday, and experts are predicting that Saskatchewan will get a mixed bag during the next three months.

"It looks like a winter that will be characterized by extended periods of deep freeze followed by a period of more milder, gentler conditions," said Weather Network meteorologist Doug Gillham.

"Not just day-to-day type fluctuations, but a tendency to lock into a pattern for several weeks."

Gillham explained that while cold snaps can usually be attributed to air masses from Alaska and the northern Pacific, Siberia will be to blame this winter. The network is predicting that cross-polar flows across the North Pole will pummel the Prairies.

"Those can be exceptionally cold," he said.

"Sometimes the cold air is going to be directed at … the western Prairies, and other times the eastern Prairies. (Saskatchewan) is sort of in the middle, so you're going to see quite a few Arctic fronts come through."

He noted that air masses from northern Asia are usually colder than other masses. Instead of crossing an open ocean or massive area of land, he said, these flows are moving across nothing but snow and ice.

"There's more chance to modify if you take a longer route into central Canada," he said.

"A direct shot over the top of the pole doesn't have any chance to really warm up."

Although this winter may see longer cold periods, Gillham said it's considered near normal when compared to data from the last 30 years.

MORGAN MODJESKI/
METRO IN SASKATOON

Offences

Impaired driving rises in Regina, say new crime stats

Despite an overall decline in the number of crimes reported to city police, impaired-driving offences are on the rise in Regina from a year ago.

The number of Criminal Code traffic offences, including impaired driving, has risen more than 27 per cent in the first 10 months of 2013 compared to 2012, according to new statistics released by Regina police.

"Obviously, we have a role in enforcement in taking impaired drivers off the streets," Chief Troy Hagen said Monday.

"We all hope and strive that one day we'll eradicate impaired driving — but honestly, we have a lot of work to do."

Overall crime in Regina so far this year has dropped more than seven per cent from the same period in 2012, including a more than 10 per cent decline in violent crimes.

Hagen said these numbers are particularly encouraging, because the force has seen more success over the past 10 years in reducing property crime than in cutting violent crime.

"We're very encouraged by (how) crimes against persons continue to decline month-over-month," Hagen added of violent offences.

"In October there were 198 offences reported to us … whereas the year before in October it was 240."

Property crime last month, on the other hand, was up compared to October 2012 — which could partially be attributed to warmer temperatures.

"There were some very small, slight increases in the majority of categories in October on a month-to-month comparison," Hagen said, noting the role that weather can play.

"Harsh weather impacts the number of people out on the street, and also impacts whether people are more inclined to do property crimes."

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Report: Transport Canada rail oversight lacking in key areas

'Significant weaknesses.' Issues include poorly trained inspectors, lack of route knowledge and absence of followup when problems are found

A rail-safety audit completed just days before the deadly July train crash in Lac-Mégantic, Que., found "significant weaknesses" in Transport Canada's oversight of railways.

Those weaknesses include a lack of knowledge of rail routes used to transport dangerous goods, too few safety auditors, poorly trained inspectors and an absence of followup or sanctions when safety problems are found.

"What we identified was that there were weaknesses in all aspects of how Transport Canada is overseeing rail safety systems in the (rail) companies," auditor general Michael Ferguson told a news conference Tuesday.

His report found that only 14 safety audits of Canada's 31 federally regulated railways had been completed in the previous three years — just a quarter of the audits Transport Canada had expected to carry out.

Moreover, "the scope of the department's audits is very limited," stated the report.

And eight of those 14 audits focused on just the two largest operators, CN and Canadian Pacific, leaving Canada's smaller operators largely unchecked.

One of those small rail companies was the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic, whose unattended, single-operator train carrying 7.6 million litres of volatile crude oil derailed and exploded in Lac-Mégantic on July 6, killing 47 people.

The auditor general's report, which was wrapped up barely a week before the crash, explicitly states it makes no assessment of the Lac-Mégantic disaster.

The centre of Lac-Mégantic, Que., wiped away under a clutter of smouldering tanker cars on July 7. An auditor general report found "significant weaknesses" in Transport Canada's railway oversight. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

However, Ferguson acknowledged Tuesday that the deadliest rail accident in Canadian history highlights the audit's significance.

"Any time there's a serious, significant incident, it's always going to raise questions," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other report highlights

- The September 2012 recall of seven million kilograms of beef products from XL Foods in Alberta highlighted serious problems at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- The Canada Border Services Agency and the RCMP need to tighten border security work and take steps to better measure how effective they are at keeping unauthorized immigrants out.
- The Canada Revenue Agency did a good job of following up on leaked reports of Canadians with offshore accounts in Liechtenstein.
- The Canadian government has done little since 2005 to improve its online services for citizens.

Prisons too secretive, inquest told

From left: Julian Roy, lawyer for Ashley Smith's family; Breese Davies, lawyer for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies; and Richard Macklin, lawyer for Ontario's child advocate, walk outside during Smith's prison-death inquest in Toronto on June 25. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Only an independent, external watchdog can force improvements on a secretive prison system deeply resistant to change, an inquest jury heard Tuesday.

Proper accountability is desperately needed to prevent a recurrence of the Ashley Smith tragedy, a lawyer for a women's prisoner advocacy group told jurors.

In closing submissions, Breese Davies said it would be useless to simply recommend a culture shift at Correctional Service Canada.

"This inquest has taught us the risks of allowing CSC to continue to operate under a cloud of secrecy," Davies said.

Speaking for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, Davies said prison authorities need to focus less on security and more on therapy when it comes to mentally ill and chronically self-harming women.

Davies, who joined with Smith's family in urging jurors to return a verdict of homicide in the teen's choking death, said CSC has done little to deal with the issues that led to the tragedy.

Quoted

"They have lost their moral compass. The cloud of secrecy has to be lifted."

Breese Davies, lawyer for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, on Correctional Service Canada

"CSC cannot be trusted to fix the problems," she said.

The deeply troubled Smith, 19, strangled herself in her segregation cell in Kitchener, Ont., on Oct. 19, 2007, as guards delayed going in to try to save her.

Davies opposed a finding of suicide or accidental death given evidence the warden had ordered underlings to stay out of Smith's cell as long as the inmate was still breathing.

"The order was a well researched, meticulously-crafted policy that we now know was a major factor in Ashley's death," Davies said.

"It was extreme hesitation that caused her death that day." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical pot. Health Canada mail-out error leads to firings, robbery: law firm

At least three medical marijuana patients have lost their jobs and one person has been the victim of a home invasion since Health Canada outed 40,000 medical pot access program participants in a mass mail-out gaffe last week, according to law firm Branch MacMaster.

The B.C. firm has filed a class-action lawsuit against Health Canada over the privacy breach and says members of the country's medical marijuana program now worry about being attached to the stigma that comes along with using marijuana and fear they may be victim of a robbery. What's worse is the fact that the patients have also been exposed as having diseases, the firm says.

"Individuals that are part of the access program must also, in order to qualify for the program, suffer from a small number of diseases and illnesses that actually themselves come with a public stigma as well," said Branch MacMaster lawyer Kate Saunders.

"It gets even worse than just being outed as users of marijuana; you are being outed as having diseases such as HIV or Multiple Sclerosis or any number of other diseases you are required to have in order to be able to be qualify for the program."

The named plaintiff in the case, Jason Wilcox, was forced to explain to his 14-year-old daughter that he uses marijuana after she picked up the mail on her way home from school. He says Health Canada forced him to have a conversation with his teenaged daughter that he wasn't quite ready to have.

"She went out to get the mail and asked me, 'Hey Dad, what's this?'" said Wilcox, the founder and director of Cannabis in Canada Society.

Health Canada Deputy Minister George Da Pont said the format of the mailing was the result of an "administrative error."

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO IN OTTAWA

Rogers shoots, scores with $5.2B NHL multimedia deal

12-year agreement. The historic move dealt a body blow to rival broadcasters

Canada's hockey TV landscape underwent a seismic shift Tuesday as Rogers Communications wrested control of NHL multimedia rights with a blockbuster 12-year, $5.2-billion agreement that will preserve Hockey Night in Canada but limit CBC's role in the iconic broadcast.

The deal, the largest in NHL history, gives Rogers national rights to all NHL games, including the playoffs and Stanley Cup final, on all of its platforms in all languages.

"It will be the NHL like never before," Rogers Media president Keith Pelley promised at a packed news conference Tuesday, touting a "transformational day" for the industry, as well as Rogers' position as a sports broadcasting titan.

A sub-licensing agreement with CBC allows the public broadcaster to continue airing Hockey Night in Canada on Saturday nights for four years, while TVA in Quebec earned all of the Canadian French-language multi-media rights.

But the Rogers coup includes rights to the venerable Hockey Night in Canada brand, allowing Rogers to air the weekly staple across all of its platforms, including City and Sportsnet.

"Sometimes it's almost surreal — acquiring the most coveted content in all of Canada, and there is nothing even close, which is the national rights to Hockey Night in Canada," Pelley told reporters after the news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Knew when to fold 'em

The CBC "was not in a position to spend taxpayers' money on this game of high stakes."

CBC president Hubert Lacroix said at the news conference the NHL had high financial expectations the national broadcaster couldn't meet.

The triumphant trio, in colour-coordinated duds: Rogers president and CEO Nadir Mohamed, centre, with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, left, and Keith Pelley, president of Rogers Media, at a news conference on Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The good ol' hockey deal

The new deal is raising questions about the future of CBC's talent, especially Don Cherry. Rogers Media president Keith Pelley said it was too soon to answer those questions.

- It appears TSN is also on the outside looking in. The NHL's news release early Tuesday made no mention of the all-sports network, which currently airs a package of regular-season and playoff games.
- Bell Media vice-president of communications Scott Henderson said TSN would have 10 Leafs games next season under a regional agreement and that, starting in 2015, the network would have 26 regional Leafs games.
- The deal could put the iconic Hockey Night in Canada theme song in limbo. TSN has owned the rights to the jingle since 2008 after CBC was unable to negotiate a new agreement with the song's composer.

159 members

Diplomats fail to reach global trade deal: WTO chief

Negotiators have failed to craft the first global trade deal in more than a decade, which could have given the world economy a $1 trillion boost, the director-general of the World Trade Organization said.

Diplomats from the WTO's 159 members tried ahead of a summit where ministers were to have signed the deal next week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.97¢ (+0.17¢)

TSX 13,349.77 (-122.45)

OIL $93.68 US (-41¢)

GOLD $1,241.40 US (+ 20¢)

Natural gas: $3.86 US (+ 2¢)
Dow Jones: 16,072.80 (+ 0.26)

Study. Social media gurus going the way of the dodo

Jobs for tech savvy social media experts will be obsolete in 10 years, according to a new study released Tuesday by online employment site Workopolis.

The study predicts that social media experts will be a victim of advancing technology.

That is because today's youth are already immersed in social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

"People will need to be even more literate with social media just to get in the door and it will no longer be something that absolutely differentiates folks," said Tara Talbot, vice-president of human resources at Workopolis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Random biz fact of the day

97%

97 per cent of recruiters use LinkedIn, 51 per cent use Facebook, and 49 per cent use Twitter. WORKOPOLIS

Nuclear waste. Company town backs Bruce Power

Ordinarily, a proposal to bury radioactive waste in a scenic area would inspire "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) protests from local residents.

But conventional wisdom has been turned on its head in southwestern Ontario, where Bruce Power wants to entomb waste from its nuclear plants 680 metres below the surface near Lake Huron.

Some of the strongest support comes from Kincardine, Ont., area near the would-be disposal site. Nuclear is a way of life here, and many residents have jobs connected to the industry. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lake Huron just beyond a fence enclosing a section of the Bruce Power nuclear complex. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 18

metronews.ca/temp

Relationships

Temp work, temp love

With no job security or benefits and fluctuating schedules, temporary employment is affecting personal relationships.

A study by United Way Toronto and McMaster University found those doing precarious work — including contract, temporary and casual workers — are more likely to be single.

Among those aged 25 to 34, 31 per cent with secure employment are single, compared to 54 per cent with precarious jobs.

PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

ISTOCK

Carried away

Tittle-tattle

We asked you to share your office secrets and you answered:

"During a tough year of merger and acquisition, the president of the company made a speech at the Christmas party and said, 'We will shoot the laggards and carry the wounded!' As the president left the stage, a friend, obviously having partaken of a few too many, ran at the president, jumped on his back and yelled, 'Yahoo, carry me, I'm wounded.' And yes, he was carried — carried out by security!" METRO READER

Temp Empathizes with Ducklings

I stayed for a while at Chantelle's, but declined her vodka as I still had to drive — to the oil refinery to meet with Kyle who answered a meet-for-coffee text with: Blue gate, refinery north road, 7:45 look for billboard with photo of happy mallard duck family.

Indeed I found the Duck Family portrait with the banner caption, Always Putting the Environment First. It stood in front of a crude-oil cracking facility straight out of a sci-fi film where mutants on a slave planet convert poor people into snacks for the master species.

"Isn't this place great?" asked Kyle, coming in from the parking lot and wearing his still brand-new journeyman's outfit. "I start on the eight o'clock night shift. I'm totally stoked."

"Kyle, this place is freaky, and who knows what toxins there are in there."

"Shannon, for a guy with no degree, this is a good foot in the door, and if I play my cards right I can be a supervisor in a few years."

My heart felt like one of those little ducklings onto which a massive Acme cartoon anvil has fallen from a mile up. "Where's Mr. Burns' office?"

"Admin's about a mile thataway. Why are you so bummed out? I've got a real grown-up-job job. You should be happy for me."

I was silent.

"And look, I can maybe go work in Libya or Abu Dhabi and make crazy money. That's where the action is. Six months in the Emirates — business class ticket each way — live in a walled compound with satellite TV and well-stocked fridges — the sky's the limit."

I sighed.

"You're always looking for fun facts. Did you know that one barrel of oil — 42 gallons — yields 44 gallons of petroleum products?"

"I didn't."

"It's because when crude oil is converted, it increases in volume. Roughly half of each barrel of crude oil is turned into gasoline for transportation."

When did Kyle drink the "New Kyle" Kool-Aid? I never saw this coming.

"Shannon, for a guy with no degree, this is a good foot in the door, and if I play my cards right I can be a supervisor in a few years."

He asked, "Shannon, why did you want to see me, anyway? Trying to get me involved in your evil plot with the Chinese?"

"As a matter of fact, yes."

"I don't think I'm the espionage type."

"It's not espionage."

"Look, now's not the time for this. I'm going to be late on my first day if I don't get in right now." He started edging backwards toward the entryway. "Besides, this is where I'm at in my life right now. I'm an oil guy."

"Promise me you'll call if you change your mind?"

"Gotta go, Shannon. Bye."

I waved goodbye and got back into Danimal's BMW. I turned on the radio where Dust in the Wind by Kansas was playing and promptly began bawling.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

Random fact of the day

Dolly Parton once anonymously entered a "Dolly Parton look-alike contest" but lost to a drag queen.

SOURCE: WTFFUNFACT.COM

Random biz fact of the day

72%

A majority of job seekers says it's important that a company offers flexible schedules when they are deciding whether to take a position.

SOURCE: CAREERBUILDER

The clock is ticking

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

TEMP is ... well, temporary

Douglas Coupland's 20-day novella is a pop-up project and will disappear from our website this Monday at 12:01 a.m. EST. If you've missed an instalment, there are still five days to catch up at temp.metronews.ca — before it disappears. METRO

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SURVIVAL IS MEDIUM-RARE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

If you're an animal, you must be confused.

Take this new survey from Insights West in Vancouver, which shows that 88 per cent of British Columbians oppose trophy hunting.

That's the good news. The bad news is that almost the same number — 85 per cent — think it's OK to eat you.

Even more confusing, 73 per cent think it's OK to hunt animals for food.

If you could speak human, you'd probably point out that it doesn't really matter if you end up over someone's mantel or on the dinner table.

Either way, you're just as dead.

Then of course you might be a dog or a cat, a beneficiary of the $6.5 billion Canadians spend annually on their pets. Still, there's a risk you might end up in an animal shelter, where more than 51,000 cats, dogs and "others" are euthanized annually in Canada.

Be thankful you're not a pet turkey, especially around this time of year. You could get really confused and dead.

You also might want to avoid being a lab rat. As many as 80 million rats and mice are used for research each year, and guess what happens when you're finished serving medical science.

Yup, you're dead.

If you're looking for some evidence that attitudes are changing for the better, wag your tail. Not only do people oppose trophy hunting, only 15 per cent are in favour of killing animals for their fur. Good news if you're a beaver, though it might mean you're more likely to be sheared alive.

The Insights West survey also says that only 38 per cent are in favour of using animals in rodeos, which means you're less likely to get rope burn, spur sores and any of the other hazards that make the West Wild.

And only 56 per cent think you should be caged in a zoo where you're expected to spend the rest of your life wearing out a concrete trough from padding back and forth, mooching for peanuts.

So if you can get over the fact that 85 per cent want you for dinner, you might think things are looking up. Especially if you're not a member of the 21,286 species threatened with extinction, according to the 49th annual Red List, a census of the world's animals maintained by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, updated just this week. And if you're a Hawaiian Crow or Wyoming Toad, you probably don't mind living at the zoo, because your species is among the 61 extinct in the wild.

Of course, if you're a member of one of the 799 completely extinct species, you're dead.

Probably the best kind of animal you can be is a big nasty critter at the top of the food chain in an inhospitable region of the world where people don't like to go — like a polar bear in the Arctic.

On second thought, if global warming keeps up, there won't be any Arctic. And you know what that means.

ZOOM

Sometimes the dentist is a zoo

SHANE GIBSON/METRO WINNIPEG

Aurora the polar bear goes under

Talk about a risky procedure.

On Tuesday morning veterinarians at the Assiniboine Park Zoo's animal hospital performed dental surgery on Aurora, the 11-month-old female cub who recently arrived at the zoo from Churchill, Man.

Thankfully Aurora was anesthetized for the work, which Dr. Chris Enright, who heads up veterinarian services at the zoo, said isn't too different than what people get done at the dentist.

The zoo said during the procedure, veterinary staff removed two of the polar bear's baby teeth and one adult tooth that were broken and infected.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO WINNIPEG

Rarrrhhh!

"Right now she's only about 110 pounds ... but she still has the attitude of a 600-pound predator. So it's certainly not safe to just ask her to open her mouth."

Dr. Chris Enright
Head of veterinarian services
Assiniboine Park Zoo

Friends at the zoo

- Aurora was brought to the zoo about a month ago.
- There are three other bears: Hudson (the oldest, and from the Toronto Zoo), Storm and another 11-month-old female who was named Kaska on Monday.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Last week, AOL announced it was shutting down Winamp, one of the oldest, most venerable digital music players. Dating back to the days of Napster, Winamp was a favourite among music lovers who wanted something different than stock programs like iTunes and Windows Media Player. Sadly, the application will no longer be available for download as of Dec. 20. Fortunately, there are some free alternatives out there for those who don't need a Genius to tell them what to listen to.

CONTRIBUTED

Foobar2000 (foobar2000.org):

Offering a simple, yet powerful interface, Foobar2000 isn't a drag on your computer's resources like iTunes is. It plays almost every audio file type imaginable and lets users tag their own music metadata.

VLC Media Player (videolan.org):

Arguably the most popular open source media player on the market, VLC is a capable replacement. As a bonus, it's available on Windows, Mac, iOS, Android and Linux, so it meets the definition of "cross-platform."

AIMP (aimp2.us):

If you just can't let Winamp go, try this clone. AIMP's interface is almost identical to Winamp's, right down to the 18-channel equalizer and modular windows.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Rogers' #NHL deal will see them assume control over #HNIC. What do you want left the same? What do you want changed?

@Fontaine_D: It won't be long before we finally see the last of Don Cherry on HNIC. Thank you Rogers!

@cjoanporter: Question: Does all this #HNIC moving to Rogers news mean I'll no longer have to see/hear Don Cherry? Bc then I'm all for it.

@scottmahoney94: yay monopoly

@bonnaventure: replace Don Cherry with an upturned mop w/ bucket for head. Replace Ron Maclean with Stuart McLean. Add @ strombo 4 some reason less hockey, more 'who wore it best' segments.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

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Hollywood keeps on looking to Asia for, um, inspiration

Remakes or ripoffs?

From Godzilla to classic Westerns, U.S. studios know they can find fodder in the East

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Everyone knows Godzilla was a superstar in Japan long before he went Hollywood and started stomping American landmarks into matchsticks. Despite making his debut in 1954, the King of the Monsters had to wait until 1998's Roland Emmerich film Godzilla to be to be fully reimagined by an American studio.

So you knew of Godzilla's roots, but did you also know The Magnificent Seven and A Fistful of Dollars were remakes of Asian films?

Add to that list this weekend's Oldboy, a Spike Lee re-creation of a violent Chanwook Park film. Josh Brolin plays a man searching for answers as to why he was kidnapped and held in solitary confinement for twenty years.

Spike Lee says the original director only offered up one piece of advice. "Josh went to Park and asked for his blessing," he told MTV. "Park gave it, and the one thing he said to Josh — which Josh related to me — was, 'Make a different film; don't do the same thing I did.' (So) that's the way we did it."

Hollywood has looked to Asia for inspiration for years.

Akira Kurosawa's films provided fodder for two redone classics. The epic Seven Samurai became the gunfighter flick The Magnificent Seven and the director's Yojimbo provided the backbone for A Fistful of Dollars, starring Clint Eastwood.

Once again Old West gunfighters subbed for samurai but the premise of one man playing rivals off one another remains. Since the movie was an unofficial remake Kurosawa sued, won and later bragged he made more money off of Fistful of Dollars than Yojimbo.

Elizabeth Olsen and Josh Brolin in Oldboy. CONTRIBUTED

At the turn of the millennium Japanese movies like Ringu, Ju-on and Geoul Sokeuro helped reinvent Hollywood horror.

The best known of the Asian horror remakes was The Ring, an unlikely story of a cursed videotape that caused the viewer to die within a week of watching it. Roger Ebert called the movie boring and "borderline ridiculous" but it was a huge hit and paved the way for others like The Grudge and Dark Water.

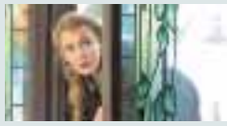
Hollywood has often looked to Asia for inspiration, but sometimes it has worked the other way round.

Saidoweizu is a Japanese version of the wine-soaked romantic dramedy Sideways, director Toshikazu Nagae put his own spin on Paranormal Activity 2: Tokyo Night, and A Woman, a Gun and a Noodle Shop transports Blood Simple's action from 1980s Texas to 19th century China.

Unlikely hit

The best known of the Asian horror remakes was The Ring, an unlikely story of a cursed videotape that caused the viewer to die within a week of watching it.

Drama



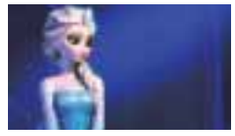
The Book Thief

Director. Brian Percival

Stars. Geoffrey Rush, Sophie Nelisse

Based on an international bestseller, The Book Thief is an impassioned but understated piece of award-striving cinema focused on a young illiterate child coming of age in wartime Germany. Despite the familiarity of the emotional themes that make up The Book Thief, rising Canadian star Sophie Nelisse (Monsieur Lazhar) particularly molds the melodrama into moving entertainment and Geoffrey Rush is thoroughly watchable as the warm foster dad who teaches her to read. **STEVE GOW**

Animated



Frozen

Directors. Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Stars. Kristen Bell, Josh Gad, Idina Menzel

The Princesses of Arendelle, Anna (Kristen Bell) and Elsa (Idina Menzel), are polar opposites. Anna is a warm-hearted adventurer while Elsa has the awesome power to manifest ice and snow from her fingertips. When Elsa accidentally plunges her kingdom into an endless winter Anna sets off with mountain man Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), his reindeer and a sun-worshipping snowman named Olaf (Josh Gad) to save the realm. Frozen has all the elements of classic Disney — amusing animals, catchy songs and two princesses — but wants for more complex characters. **RICHARD CROUSE**

Action

Homefront

Director. Gary Fleder

Stars. Jason Statham, James Franco

The first thing you need to know about Homefront is that it was scripted by Sylvester Stallone. That pretty much says everything about the thriller's severe tone, stock characterizations and messy combat choreography. Silly, but viscerally satisfying, Jason Statham plays an underground DEA agent hiding in backwoods Louisiana until his cover is blown and old enemies come calling. Homefront's cast has trouble finding the right tone — especially one-time Oscar-nominee Winona Ryder playing a completely expendable former biker chick. **STEVE GOW**

Thriller

Oldboy

Director. Spike Lee

Stars. Josh Brolin, Elizabeth Olsen

Spike Lee's remake of Oldboy will be best appreciated by those who haven't seen the original Korean award-winner. That's because the premise of a businessman seeking bloody vengeance on whomever inexplicably locked him up for 20 years hinges on not knowing the final twist (even if Lee does alter it slightly). An assault of gratuitous violence, this update is nothing short of energetic but its lack of cohesion and expressiveness will almost certainly repel fans of the original. **STEVE GOW**

Showtimes

Southland Mall, 3025 Gordon Rd.
Frozen (G) No Passes Wed 1:20
Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 6:05-8:45
Homefront (14A) Wed 1:40-5:30-8 Thu 5:30-8

Galaxy Cinemas, Normanview S.C., 420 McCarthy Blvd. N.
The Book Thief (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:30-10:25
Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:40

Television

Even Jack doesn't like Joffrey

Jack Gleeson, who plays the vile adolescent King Joffrey on Game of Thrones, says he'll likely give up acting after the series and admits even he gets creeped out by Joffrey. "You tend to abstract yourself from the creepiness of it when you're playing it, but when you see it on television it sends shivers down my spine," he says. "I would like to try and defend him, but I would have a pretty hard job doing it." **METRO**

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Farrah Fawcett. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Do you want to own a part of Farrah Fawcett?

Farrah Fawcett's nephew Gregory Walls inherited much of the late actress' personal items, and now he's apparently looking to get rid of some of them.

Walls listed 67 of Fawcett's items — including her People's Choice Award and her driver's licence — with a Dallas-based auction house, according to Radar Online. Walls insists he's unloading the goods for the sake of her fans, writing in the auction catalogue that he decided to list the items after reading thousands of cards and letters they'd sent her.

"It was at that moment that I felt that I would do my best to give her fans a chance to possess some of the things that were special and dear to Farrah."

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Farrah Fawcett Foundation.

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The Word

Sorry Brad, there will be no private island for you

Angelina Jolie surely plans to do something special for Brad Pitt's 50th birthday next month, but that something special apparently doesn't involve buying him an island.

The NY Daily News had reported that Jolie laid out $20 million for an 11-acre, heart-shaped private island on New York's Lake Mahopac, but the owners of the property, named Petra Island, tell E! News that it's still for sale.

"We are open to show Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt the island, but they have to have lunch at my café first," says Donna Massaro, daughter of the island's owners.

The island would be of particular interest to Pitt since the two houses on it were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, one of his favourite architects.

Taylor Swift.

If I don't see you, you're not really there

Well, this must have been awkward. Taylor Swift had a pair of run-ins with ex-boyfriend Harry Styles at the American Music Awards and reportedly made a conscious effort to avoid making eye contact with him, according to Us Weekly.

Sources say that twice Swift crossed paths with the boys from One Direction and kept her laser gaze forward, refusing to acknowledge their presence.

Styles and his bandmates, by contrast, gave Swift a standing ovation when she won for Best Female Country Artist.

Megan Fox.

Fox not resenting her baby this time around

Megan Fox is totally digging being pregnant the second time around.

"For the most part, I would say it's been a lot easier," she tells E! News recently.

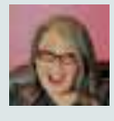
"I think that could have a lot to do with the fact that I already have a baby, so I'm so distracted taking care of him that I don't really have time to sit and lament on the fact that I'm pregnant or indulge my pregnancy."

Fox and husband Brian Austin Green welcomed her son, Noah, 14 months ago.

Twitter

@jtimberlake
Never thought I would hear a song I wrote on country radio. My GrandDad is smiling from a bar in Heaven!

@NiallOfficial
Like a zombie right now! It must be coffee time !



@TheRealRoseanne
Let's bomb billionaires next

Katniss Everdeen for a day

North Carolina. Follow in the footsteps of some of your favourite tributes by visiting the sites from the Hunger Games film

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
life@metronews.ca

Recognize this waterfall? It's where Katniss hid Peeta during the Hunger Games. PHOTOS: VAWN HIMMELSBACH

Metro's intrepid travel writer Vawn Himmelsbach channels her inner Katniss Everdeen during an archery lesson in North Carolina.

Want to shoot an arrow like Katniss or learn the art of sling shot like Rue? Whether you're a fan of the Hunger Games or an avid outdoor enthusiast, adventure awaits in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Hike in the wilderness, learn survival skills, or just eat and drink like a celebrity — and may the odds be ever in your favour.

Hit the trails in Dupont State Recreational Forest (about an hour's drive from Asheville) where you'll discover some of the most iconic scenes from the first film. Pick up a trip planner at the Asheville Visitors Center or use the interactive online map (exploreasheville.com) to organize day trips out of Asheville.

A few points of interest in Dupont: hike to Triple Falls (from the main parking lot) to see where Katniss discovers a wounded Peeta. Or head to the scenic Bridal Veil Falls, where Katniss flees from the firestorm. (Note: The waterfalls were edited out of the film, since the tributes were always on the hunt for water.)

If you're interested in behind-the-scenes scoop, it's well worth going on a Hunger Games Unofficial Fan Tour, where your guide will take you to locations used in the first film — locations that would be near impossible to find on your own. You'll also learn archery, sling shot and special-effects camouflage, and eat lunch featuring foods that your favourite tributes would have eaten. Day tours run from April to October and cost $59 US; visit hungergamesunofficialfantours.com for more info.

You can also visit Henry River Mill Village, the location for District 12. Because of vandalism, this abandoned mill town about an hour east of Asheville is closed to the public, but you can take a Hunger Games Unofficial Fan Tour for $50 US. Or, head to Chimney Rock Park for short hikes and rock climbs (also the filming location of The Last of the Mohicans).

Where to stay:

Spend the night at Hotel Indigo, where Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth stayed during the shoot. This boutique hotel has a contemporary vibe, with unique local touches such as wall murals in each room of nature scenes taken by a local photographer.

Until March 31, Hotel Indigo is offering a Hunger Games package, which includes two nights accommodation, a $15-per-person gift card for lunch at Early Girl Eatery, chocolate chip cookies in your room (Jennifer and Josh's favourite), as well as local Hunger Games trivia. Prices begin at $290 US; email snewton@hlihotels.com for more info.

What to do:

Head to Lexington Avenue Brewery for brisket mac 'n cheese or mountain trout tacos. Alternatively, go to the Laughing Seed Café, where vegan Woody Harrelson went for vegetarian fare. Then head to The Southern for a vanilla bourbon mint julep on the patio.

To get your heart racing, check out Nantahala Outdoor Center for whitewater rafting and zip line tours. You can also hone your outdoor survival skills by taking a wilderness medicine course (scheduled classes or private instruction). Visit noc.com for more info.

Real or not real?

Hunger Games Unofficial Fan Tours will be offering guided tours behind the making of Catching Fire in Atlanta, Ga. You'll visit film locations via private shuttle, learn archery, play archery tag and make your own volcanic rock. Tours start Dec. 14, running through 2014 ($94 US). For die-hard fans take a full weekend, which includes themed accommodations and food, survival training, banquet and game simulation (beginning April 2014 for $599 US).

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Take the chill out of November cold with Black Bean & Avocado Soup

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

This creamy, rich-tasting soup is very nutritious. I like to serve it garnished with reduced-fat sour cream, diced plum tomatoes or a sprinkle of shredded cheddar cheese.

1. Spray a nonstick saucepan with cooking oil, add vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Cook the onion, carrot and garlic, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes or until softened.

2. Set aside 1/2 cup of the black beans. Add the remaining beans, stock, sugar and cumin to the vegetable mixture. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium low. Cover and cook for 15 minutes or until the carrots are tender.

3. Purée soup in blender or food processor, working in batches. Return to saucepan. Stir in reserved beans.

4. Ladle the soup into individual bowls and garnish with cilantro and avocado and sour cream. **THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY: ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 2 tsp minced fresh garlic
- one 19 oz can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable stock
- 1/2 tsp granulated sugar
- 3/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro or parsley
- 1/4 cup diced avocado and reduced-fat sour cream

This recipe serves four. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Juicy Dreams

Bourbon has all the qualities for a cold weather base: warming, festive, affordable and compatible. And because of those qualities, you don't need to do much to it to create a terrific cocktail.

- Ice
- 2 oz bourbon
- 1 oz Lillet
- 1/2 oz lemon juice
- 2 oz pomegranate juice

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker, combine the bourbon, Lillet, lemon juice and pomegranate juice. Shake, then strain into an ice-filled tumbler. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Getting a hold of your guru of professional greatness

Finding "the one".
Taking the first steps toward finding your perfect mentor

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

Sometimes a boost can be just what you need to jump start your career and finding a mentor might be the way to do just that.

The mentor-mentee relationship is a precious one. The mentor can coach their mentee in their chosen field and open up a whole variety of opportunities to them, while the mentee keeps their teacher abreast of current feelings and developments of the age group in that industry.

After you've decided what you might look for in a mentor (think: someone you like who works in your field of interest and, as an added bonus, has a strong network within the industry), try to brainstorm where you could meet said person. Here are some to start you off:

Where to meet a mentor

Networking events

Signing up for networking events can be a really great way to meet potential mentors and it's a useful strategy to get your foot in the door of your industry of interest.

School

Universities or colleges often employ industry professionals to teach classes and making use of these connections to the outside world can provide you with a mentor that understands the culture of the classroom and of the workplace.

Social media

Do you have a blog or Twitter account that you love to follow? If someone is posting things that are both interesting and relevant to your chosen field, they probably have other information that they'd love to share with you!

What to do once you've met a potential mentor

Ask for advice, not mentorship

Hatch your relationship by asking your potential mentor for advice about something, instead of making the overly formal request of "Will you be my mentor?" With any luck, your relationship will blossom from there.

Stay in touch

Once you've met your mentor, hopefully you will have had the chance to get their contact details.

Send them an email saying how great it was to meet them and recall an interesting part of your conversation to signal to them that you were listening and you were engaged with what they were saying.

Ask them questions, but don't bombard them

A good mentor does want to help you, but don't take advantage of their good nature.

Chances are, they are very busy and don't have a whole lot of time to reply to inquiries. Don't ask them huge numbers of questions all at once and try to keep these questions as succinct as possible.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Asking someone to be your mentor may overwhelm them, as they won't know what that entails. Start with simply asking someone you respect for advice. ISTOCK

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4 SPORTS

Baseball Hall of Fame

Maddux, Thomas headline new hopeful inductees

Four-time Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux, two-time winner Tom Glavine and two-time AL MVP Frank Thomas are among 19 newcomers on this year's Hall of Fame ballot, joining

Greg Maddux
GETTY IMAGES FILE

steroid-tainted holdovers Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

Ballots are due by Dec. 31, and results will be announced Jan. 8.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Hurricane slapped with 2-game ban

Carolina Hurricanes forward Kevin Westgarth has been suspended for two games without pay by the NHL for a boarding hit.

Westgarth was suspended for his hit on Ottawa's Mark Boroweicki on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Rodgers unlikely to play vs. Lions

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers returned to practice on a limited basis Tuesday from a fractured left collarbone. He appears highly unlikely to play against the Detroit Lions on Thursday, however. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

"I think the players are smart enough to understand that if you are 3-8, everybody is playing for their jobs."

Redskins head coach Mike Shanahan after Monday night's 27-6 loss to the 49ers.

Riders' title defence could be missing key playmakers

Free agents. Grey Cup MVP Sheets and Dressler will test waters south of the border

Just days after winning the Grey Cup, the Saskatchewan Roughriders have cleaned out their lockers knowing some players from their successful core may not be back.

Star running back Kory Sheets and slotback Weston Dressler — one of quarterback Darian Durant's favourite targets — will both become free agents in the off-season.

Other players could be lost when Ottawa starts stockpiling its roster with picks from the CFL expansion draft. The existing eight teams will be forced to protect a certain number of players, with the Redblacks then allowed to pick from those left unprotected.

Durant would like to see some key players stay in Saskatchewan, such as Dressler, his neighbour in the locker-room.

Going out on top?

Saskatchewan could also be without veteran linebacker Mike McCollough next season.

- McCollough was drafted by the Riders in 2003 and has spent his entire career with the green and white.
- McCollough said he and his wife would sit down in the coming weeks and "decide what's next for us."

"I want the whole nucleus to be together. We've been together since '08," Durant said Tuesday.

"We put in the time, put in the years so I definitely want him back, but I know he'll probably explore some opportunities that may be out there for him down south and if it doesn't work out then I think he'll be back. This is the place for him. That chemistry we have, you know you saw it throughout the playoffs, and hopefully we'll get something done."

Dressler, who went to the University of North Dakota, joined the Riders in 2008. He has spent his entire career in Saskatchewan. He had a league-high 13 receiving touchdowns in 2012.

The receiver says he's just enjoying the experience of winning the Grey Cup right now, but he also says he would take a look at heading south for the NFL.

"If the right opportunity presented itself, I would definitely take a look at it and have to consider all my options at that point, if I had a real chance," said Dressler.

Sheets originally signed with the San Francisco 49ers in 2009, then moved to the Miami Dolphins later that season and signed with the Carolina Panthers in 2011. He joined the Roughriders in February 2012.

Like Dressler, Sheets also says he's just going to enjoy being a Grey Cup champion. But he can't deny that he has his eyes on the NFL.

"I would like to come back, but if the situation is right in the NFL, I can't stop my heart from going to try and fill that void I have right now," said Sheets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I wouldn't play for no other CFL team in the league, so don't anybody got to worry about that." Kory Sheets

Kory Sheets signs autographs as the Roughriders clean out their lockers at Mosaic Stadium on Tuesday. JENNIFER GRAHAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Burris still wants to be man of Steeltown

Henry Burris THE CANADIAN PRESS

If Henry Burris has his way, he will be the starting quarterback to lead the Hamilton Tiger-Cats back to the Grey Cup next year.

Burris, 38, becomes a free agent in the off-season after two seasons with the Ticats. He says he wants to stay in Steeltown and play at the new Tim Hortons Field stadium that is planned to open next season.

"I want to be back here," he said. "We've had a great run. I still feel like I can get it done."

He showed he could still get it done this season, leading the league with 4,925 passing yards. He completed 373 of 567 pass attempts for 24 touchdowns and 19 interceptions.

The 14-year CFL veteran came to the Ticats almost two years ago in a trade with Calgary that included sending quarterback Kevin Glenn to the Stampeders. At the time, Burris had lost his starting job to Drew Tate after seven straight seasons in Calgary and was looking for a fresh start.

Last year, his first at the Ticat helm, the team finished 6-12 and failed to make the playoffs. This time around, they made it all the way to the Grey Cup before losing the championship 45-23 to the hometown Saskatchewan Roughriders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DRIVE

Tech-ing time to settle: latest in-car gadgetry not as smart as you think

Problems. Complaints coming from all major demograhics unhappy with infotainment and connectivity within their vehicles

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The 2015 Audi A3 Sedan is a WiFi hot spot and will be the first to offer 4GT LTE service inside a vehicle. PHOTO: AUDI

Vehicles are turning into smart phones and that's having a profound effect on vehicle interiors, and in many cases, the driver's dissatisfaction with such interiors.

And the complaints are not just coming from grumpy old men who would rather trowel grout than tweet.

According to consumer research conducted by J.D. Power and Associates, all major demographic bulges (boomers, Gen X, Gen Y), are having issues with the quality and design of some of the connectivity and infotainment systems in today's vehicles. In fact, the younger generations are harder to please because they self identify as tech-savvy, multi-tasking experts and expect instant action and satisfaction with all of their techie devices.

It's a case of, "we like all the technology, but it's not working as brilliantly and easily as advertised." And we really want these things to work, because we're spending more and more time in our vehicles.

Mike VanNieuwkuyk, Executive Director, Global Quality Practice, J.D. Power, recently held fourth on this "in-car experience" topic at the 2013 TalkAUTO conference in Toronto, and noted that, these days, more malfunctions are happening in the navigation and infotainment areas than anywhere else on the vehicle.

In addition to outright malfunctions, his firm also identified a large source of irritants that is more related to bad design than it is to things breaking down. One irritant group was characterized as "soft inadequacies, where needs are addressed but not as preferred" (I only wish I made that up). Another irritant group is tech stuff that is just misaligned with expectations.

A lot of voice command issues fall into these two groups. VanNieuwkuyk said customers complain about the technology profusely, but rank it only second to "touch screen" as the preferred way to control their navigation systems: "Even though many think voice command is terrible, they still want it," said VanNieuwkuyk. "They're waiting for someone to do it right."

After VanNieuwkuyk's report, several automobile dealers assembled on stage to discuss current and various automotive industry trends from their perspective, and it was soon apparent that dealerships are finding themselves on the sharp end of the stick, when it comes to customers' frustrations and learning curves with in-car technologies. Even though they didn't say it outright, you got the sense they felt the automakers weren't doing their share, in educating their customers on how all these complex systems work.

But the dealers had some really good ideas about how to deliver some of the training and information customers need.

Because there is just not enough time to demonstrate how everything works when customers take their cars home for the first time, they had to get creative. One dealer conducts a "second delivery" right at the customer's home. Another encourages salespeople to stay in touch with customers 24/7 via smart phones. Another thought that owner manuals should be converted to a series of short videos, which could be uploaded to youtube or available as smart phone apps. Another dealer was contemplating something like the Apple Genius Bar.

I hope these ideas work, and I hope grumpy old men will always feel free to express themselves.

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2013 FUSION S

CASH PURCHASE FOR ONLY **$18,999***

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WINTER CAR CARE

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Unlike all-season tires, winter tires are specifically designed to perform best in low temperatures. A general rule of thumb is once the temperature drops below 7 C you should switch to winter rubber from all-season. KURHAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

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Transmission Service
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110.95

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Two Wheel 80.00 | Four Wheel 90.00
Plus shims if required

Cooling System Flush
Includes new anti-freeze and chemicals & labor
110.95

Minor Tune-Up
Includes plugs and labour
Check antifreeze strength
Check block heater
All belts and hoses inspected

4-cyl. 93.95
6-cyl. 109.95
8-cyl. 118.95

SGI Accredited Inspection Station
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Fuel Injection Purge
System Includes labour, and chemicals
65.00

Boot Service
Check CV Boots & Joints, repack with new grease and new clamps
105.00

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Don't let winter's worst sidetrack you

When it comes to vehicles and driving, the cold weather can wreak havoc, especially if you aren't prepared for it.

As a result, it's a good idea to take a look at our vehicle and ensure that it's in tip-top condition to tackle winter's worst. A good approach is to make a checklist of what needs to be done.

1 Winter tires. Unlike all-seasons, winter tires are specifically designed to perform best in low temperatures. A general rule of thumb is once the temperature drops below 7 C you should switch to winter rubber from all-season. Another tip is to mount them on a set of steel winter rims. Not only will this protect your original factory rims, it saves time when changing over your tires, saves money (since you won't have to have the tires mounted and removed from the rims each time) and prevents the beads on the tires from being stretched or damaged.

2 Brakes. Inspect the brakes when changing to winter tires and replace the pads, rotors and or shoes. It's also a good idea to bleed the brake system every two years to prevent moisture buildup, which causes internal corrosion, results in a spongy pedal feel, increases braking distances and places additional strain on the system.

3 Fluids. Checking your fluids and replacing them is vital to ensure maximum reliability and longevity. Colder temperatures bring higher demands on your vehicle's powertrain, so make a conscious effort to inspect and change your oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, anti-freeze and differential oil. For antifreeze, make sure you use a 50/50 mix of water and ethylene glycol.

4 Belts and hoses. If the vehicle was bought used and you don't know when the last time they were replaced, you should change them anyway — it's cheap insurance. If your vehicle has one, it's also a good idea to have the timing belt replaced, especially if the car is more than five years old and has been driven more than 150,000 kilometres.

5 Battery test. There is nothing worse than being stranded on the side of the road in winter with a dead battery, so make testing yours part of the pre-winter inspection.

6 Underneath inspection. It's a good idea to inspect the underside of your vehicle for signs of corrosion on the floor plans, chassis rails, suspension attachment points and the fuel and brake lines.

7 Rustproofing. An annual application, best performed each spring, will add years to the life of your car and improve its resale value.

8 Additional considerations. Check to see that the vehicle's exterior lighting system is in good working order, while installing fresh wiper blades will help improve visibility. Also, try to have at least one full jug of winter washer fluid in the vehicle at all times. And put together an emergency kit that includes a shovel, flashlight, blankets, dry food, fluid to drink, a winter jacket, boots, hat gloves and scarf.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Weather. Navigating the snow

Canadian winters are challenging, to say the least, especially if you are a motorist.

Weather conditions can be unpredictable, placing extra demands on our vehicles and driving skills. With all that snow expected over the next few months, these simple tips will help Canadian motorists prepare for the months of often hazardous conditions that lie ahead.

"The first step in safe winter driving is to give yourself more time and slow down," said Mauro Convertini, an insurance expert at Aviva Canada.

"Most winter collisions occur when drivers do not allow for enough time or distance to brake effectively."

Convertini offers these additional tips:

• Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you in case you have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.
• Get your vehicle winter ready with a maintenance checkup.
• Make sure you have sufficient windshield washer fluid in the reservoir and keep an extra jug in the vehicle.
• Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, mirrors, and the roof.
• Install winter tires before winter begins. Winter tires are often not available later in the season.
• Remember to check tire air pressure frequently since it decreases in cold weather.
• Prepare a winter survival kit for your vehicle. Having essential supplies can provide some comfort and safety for you and your passengers should you become stranded.

NEWS CANADA

Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, mirrors, and the roof before you set you on the roads during the winter. COLOURBOX

Have your car serviced to ensure that fluids are changed and topped up before the winter arrives. DMITRY KALINOVSKY/COLOURBOX

Preparation is key for winter driving

Canadian winters can be harsh, cold and unpredictable. This is why many drivers become stressed or worried when it's time to get behind the wheel during the snowy, slippery months.

A recent survey conducted by the Canadian Automobile Association revealed that only 36 per cent of drivers carry a winter driving kit in their vehicle. This means many of us aren't adequately prepared to deal with Jack Frost.

"The holidays are a busy time of year," said Dominic Porporino, the vice-president of operations at UPS Canada. "To ensure the season is also a safe one, it's important that drivers keep road safety top of mind and prepare themselves for winter driving."

As part of UPS's commitment to road safety, the company has created a special distinction for an elite group of drivers — each with more than 25 years of accident-free driving — called the Circle of Honor.

To keep drivers safe this winter, Circle of Honor members offer these tips:

Get your car winter-ready in the fall — Prepare for a rough winter ahead of time. Have your car serviced to ensure that fluids are changed and topped up and that brakes are in proper working condition.

Purchase snow tires — Studies show that, compared to regular tires, snow tires can dramatically improve your ability to effectively navigate your car through heavy snow and ice.

Give yourself extra travel time — Anticipate traffic and slower speeds during stormy weather. A trip that usually takes 20 minutes may take 40 in bad weather, so be patient and stay alert.

Charge your cellphone — In case your vehicle gets stuck or your car battery dies, you want to have a cellphone to call for assistance. Make sure your cellphone is fully charged before getting behind the wheel.

NEWS CANADA

Concerned about your car making it through the coming Winter?
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Oil Change & Filter
Test Antifreeze Condition & Strength
Inspection of All Belts & Hoses
Tire Condition & Pressures
Charging & Starting System
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Take your time in a winter wonderland

No matter where you intend to drive this winter, take your time getting there and be prepared for an unplanned roadside stop, says Western Canada's largest network of insurance brokers.

From coast to coast, winter brings an increase in accident claims, adds Denise Lang, regional vice-president at Western Financial Group, a company providing car, property, and life insurance to more than 790,000 customers. Whether it's driving in heavy rain during the darker days, a trip up to the cold climates of a local ski hill, or getting to work on a snowy day, the winter season spells trouble for motorists.

Take the necessary precautions before you head out on the roads during the winter. NEWS CANADA PHOTO

"The number of accidents goes up in the winter, especially after the first snowfall, which typically accounts for the highest number of collisions," Lang said. "After a few months of summer road trips, people forget to take the necessary precautions for winter driving. Planning ahead and taking the time to make sure you know what to do in winter conditions is paramount for your safety, which is also our No. 1 concern."

On average, customer claims can go up more than a third during the winter months compared to the rest of the year, according to industry data.

However, there are some simple steps to avoid a winter collision during subpar driving conditions, Lang said. Some of her top tips include — increase your following distance; focus your attention as far ahead as possible to anticipate lane changes, turns and curves; avoid passing other vehicles; slow down; and allow extra time to get to your destination.

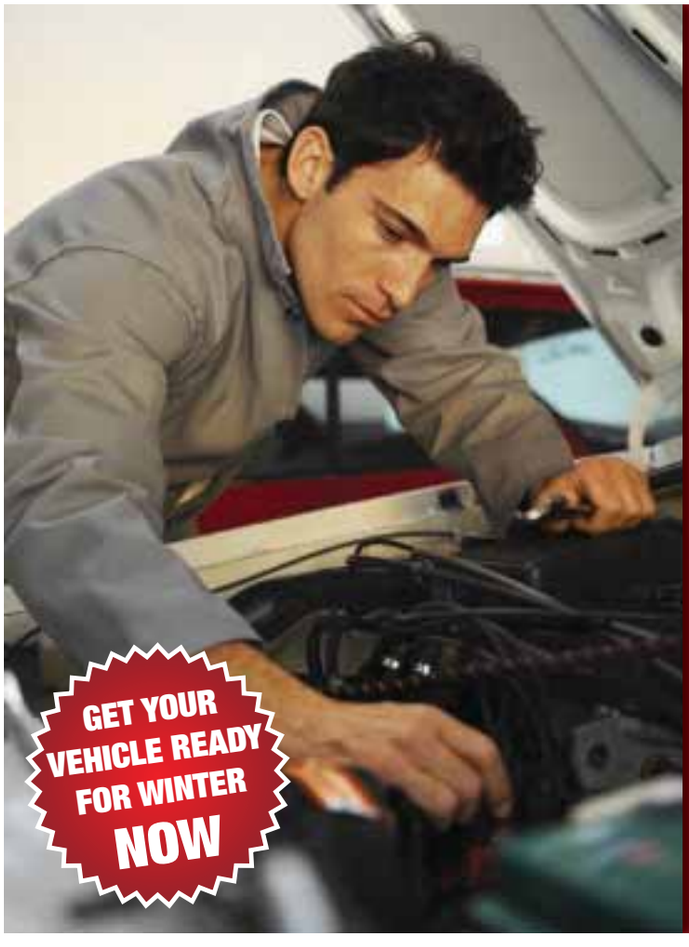
With a career in claims spanning more than two decades, one of the main things Lang has learned is that motorists are completely unprepared for being stranded roadside — a situation made worse in winter. Drivers should dress for the elements and have a winter emergency kit, she said.

"People have a garage-to-garage mentality in terms of going from their house to their destination. The normal story I hear is people just throwing on a pair of shoes and a light jacket before getting in their car. Even in the city, if you get in an accident or have car problems, a two-block walk or multiple-hour wait for assistance could jeopardize your personal health and safety."

Among Lang's list of must-haves in your car include a fully charged cellphone, flashlight, first aid kit, blanket, shovel and sand, emergency food pack, booster cables, warning light or road flares, and extra windshield fluid.

And if the unforeseen should happen, Lang stresses that motorists should safeguard themselves if they get out of their car.

"I strongly encourage everyone, if their car is driveable, to pull off to a safe place and to use caution when they get out for assessing the damage. By lingering in moving traffic, you risk causing another accident or being seriously hurt by a passing vehicle." NEWS CANADA



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Cut down on the slipping, sliding

Tires. Studies show winter tires aid in stopping and handling while driving in snow and on ice

Having a safe winter is a great reason to equip your car with the best winter tires available. BLAZ KURE/SHUTTERSTOCK

There is nothing more beautiful than a highway lined with autumn colours. They take one's breath away.

But just as soon as they appear, they are gone and the sub-zero temperatures snap back to take one's breath away.

According to a recent Canadian Tire survey, a majority of drivers in the Prairies, Ontario, and British Columbia choose not to install winter tires, mistakenly believing that all-season tires offer adequate safety.

The evidence says otherwise. In winter condition tests, Transport Canada and the Rubber Association of Canada found that stopping was 30 to 40 per cent longer with all-season tires compared to winter tires. In cornering, vehicles with all-season tires went off the testing track at speeds of only 40 to 50 km/h, while vehicles equipped with winter tires had no problem. The results were consistent with front-, rear- and all-wheel vehicles.

The experts from Desjardins Insurance agree that winter tires are designed to save lives.

"What's interesting is that many people who live in snow belt regions across the country recognize the need for them," said Desjardins spokesperson Joe Daly. "But some drivers in urban regions don't see the need to switch. The fact is we've all experienced those icy mornings when you're rushing to work or school and the salt trucks just haven't made it to your neighbourhood yet. These conditions are much more dangerous than just plain snow and having the right tires can keep everyone safe."

The reason why these tires are the most effective at preventing accidents is because they have deeper, specially-designed treads and are made of innovative rubber compounds that are softer and more pliant. This allows them to perform better on ice, snow and slush, but also in both dry and wet conditions when the temperature dips below 7 C.

Daly also suggests that it's important to keep an eye on your tires' air pressure.

"Overnight temperatures can drop from 5 C to –15 C and this rapid reduction can zap the air out of you tires by as much as four psi. An under-inflated tire can be quite dangerous, so it's important to keep tracking your tire pressure."

Having a safe winter is a great reason to equip your car with the best tires. Transport Canada suggests that "winter tires marked with the pictograph of a peaked mountain with a snowflake meet specific snow traction performance requirements, and have been designed specifically for use in winter conditions."

Another incentive is that some insurance companies will reward their clients who use winter tires with a discount on their auto insurance.

NEWS CANADA

Winter Car Care Tips for Your Windshield

When people think of winter car care, they usually think about flushing the radiator and buying snow tires. But your vehicles are also at risk of getting a cracked windshield during the cold winter months.

A chipped windshield could develop a crack at any time – and often when you least expect it. That's why it's important to repair a windshield chip as soon as you spot it.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Your critical thinking may not be as sharp as it usually is, so be careful what you allow yourself to believe. There are a lot of strange ideas in the world. You also started a few.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Quick decisions are not always good and the planets warn that you should reserve judgment on important issues unless you are absolutely sure of your stance. Even then, err on the side of caution.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Stop worrying about things over which you have no control. As the Sun moves through your opposite sign, there are a lot of things others say and do that you cannot influence. It's no big deal.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You could find yourself at a loose end today, uncertain of your next move. Who says you have to move at all? Why not let life come to you for a change. You don't have to be a go-getter all the time.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It may be tempting to take a risk today but the planets warn you will most likely regret it. There is only one thing you can be sure of at the moment and that is you cannot really be sure of anything.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you are smart, you will fight the impulse to take a shortcut. If you try to cut corners, you will be asking for trouble and trouble is not the kind of guest to turn down an invitation.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need realize that some kind of scheme is not in the least bit practical. It may be a blow to your ego but there are other useful things you could be doing with your time.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you poke your nose into a friend's personal issues you will get no thanks for it at all, no matter how well-intentioned or useful your advice may be. Some people need to learn from their own mistakes.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There are changes taking place in your life and almost all of them are good, so go with the flow and don't be scared to move in a direction you have not been before.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There are so many interesting things going on in the world around you that you won't be able to focus on one thing for any length of time. That's OK. Variety is needed to get your creative juices flowing.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Nothing in life stays the same for long so if something (or someone) goes out of your life over the next 24 hours, bid it a fond farewell and start looking for something better to replace it.

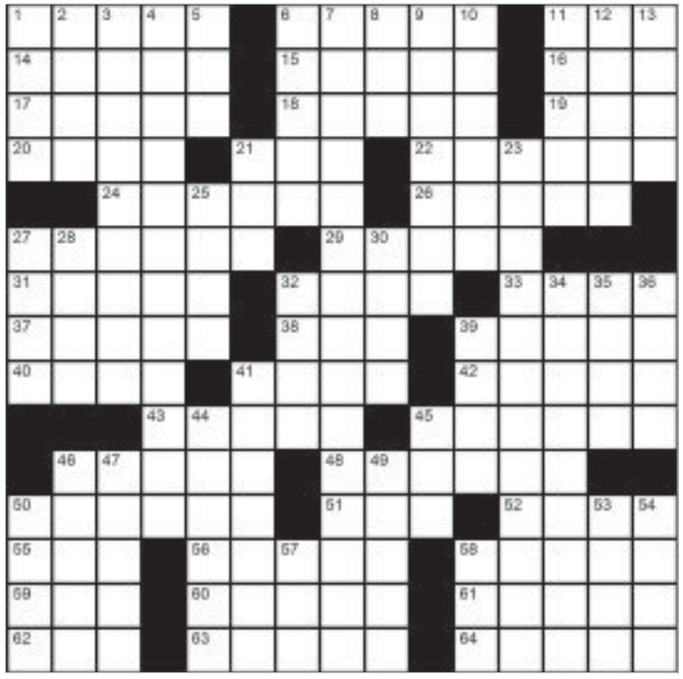
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Work-related matters must be handled with care, especially if you are one of those Pisceans who tends to be a bit reckless in your attitude towards people in positions of power.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



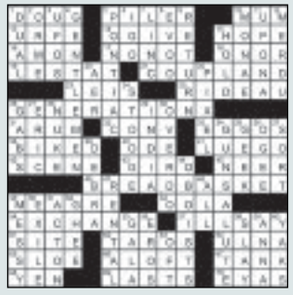
Across

1. Posh title
6. Much, slangy-ly
11. Hat
14. Trees: White poplar
15. Off-Broadway theatrical awards
16. Have payments
17. Bungle
18. Prescription warning, __ __ directed
19. Campaigned
20. Paving stone
21. Perish
22. Newfoundland's official bird, Atlantic __
24. Way out there
26. "Indoors __ __?" (Summer eater's query)
27. Drenched: 2 wds.
29. Ballotings
31. Ms. Rimes
32. Siestas
33. Fasten to the bulletin board
37. Do the tango
38. Mel of baseball
39. Capital of India, New __
40. Mr. Hershiser
41. "Je ne __ quoi."
42. Remixer/producer, William __
43. Prefix to 'dontist' (Braces giver)
45. Horrified
46. __-_ _ agent (Former employee at The Company)
48. Famous casino in Las Vegas, Golden __
50. Country star Dwight
51. CSI evidence
52. Saran __
55. Keyboard key
56. Country classic: "By the __ _ Get to Phoenix"
58. LED = Light-Emitting __
59. Plum part
60. Put on __ __ (Fake it)
61. __ __ in the air (That's still uncertain)
62. Ski hill machine, __-Cat
63. Big bags
64. Sailing: 2 wds.

Down

1. Chef Emeril Lagasse's sounds!
2. Classic comic strip, __ the Agent
3. Dermatology: Type of injectable filler
4. Functional landmark in Halifax since 1803: 3 wds.
5. Modern
6. 1963 The Kingsmen hit, when doubled
7. Calgary Tower's dazzling rotating feature: 2 wds.
8. Fasten
9. Some spouts spots
10. Guarantee
11. 1921: Greek island where Prince Philip was born
12. Expect
13. Sean of movies
21. Banned pesticide
23. Canadian hockey play-by-play broadcasting legend, b.1902 - d.1985: 2 wds.
25. Reality star Ms. Leakes
27. Canadian shoe store
28. Shakespeare tragedy, King __
30. Selects
32. Mr. Wyle
34. Seabird
35. Vitalities
36. "Knight Rider" car
39. Actor/rapper, Snoop __
41. Endurance
44. Lariats
45. Title in Turkey
46. Reddish-rose dye
47. _-__ knife
49. Segments
50. Slangy positives
53. _ __ (Together, in music)
54. "Shoop" by Salt-n-__
57. Fleetwood __
58. Wee width

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	1						2	
		5				4		
8	7		9	6	4		1	5
	2		4		8		3	
5								4
	4		6		7		8	
6	8		1	9	3		5	7
		7				9		
	9						4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	5	1	9	3	7	4	6
4	3	1	5	6	7	2	9	8
6	7	9	8	2	4	5	1	3
7	5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1
2	1	8	9	5	6	3	7	4
9	6	3	4	7	1	8	2	5
1	4	7	3	8	2	6	5	9
5	8	2	6	1	9	4	3	7
3	9	6	7	4	5	1	8	2

Today -5°/-14° Variable
Thursday -9°/-13° Variable
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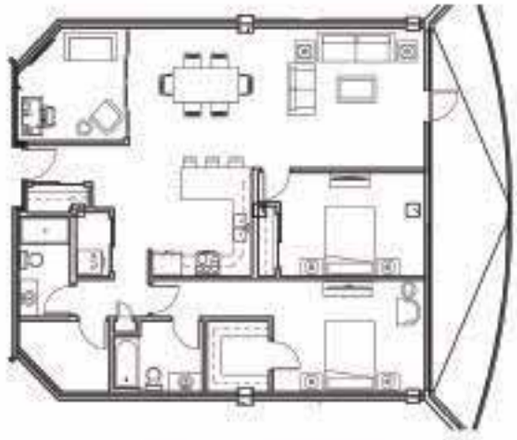

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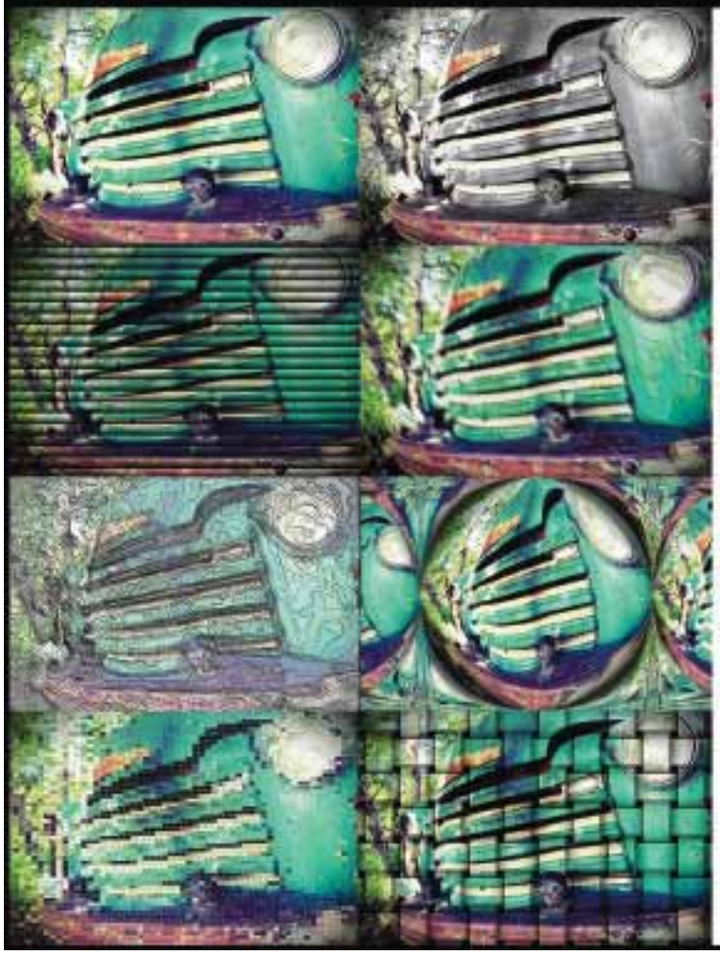

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